

H.U. Co-ed Who Failed Medical School Course Takes Life

Washington Tribune
Washington, D.C. 12-16-44

Mrs. Anne B. Weaden, 25, candidate for a degree with the medical class of Howard University, December 22, took her life Wednesday morning and was discovered at 1:15 p.m., when tenants detected odors of gas which were traced to her apartment and notified her father, Dr. Hartford R. Burwell, head of Burwell's Hospital, 2024 Sherman Avenue, N.W.

his private hospital.

Mrs. Weaden who lived at 151 McGuire's Funeral Home will Street, N.W., was the wife of have charge of the burial, but Sgt. Albert S. Weaden, stationed the arrangements had not been at Fort Devens, Mass. In addition concluded by the family late to her father, she is survived Thursday afternoon.

by her mother and sister, Cor-delia Burwell, studying to be a nurse in Mercy Hospital, Philadelphia.

Failed in Studies

Over Illness

Dr. Burwell said Thursday that his daughter had become despondent over adverse reports in a letter on December 6, from "that Negroes do not commit suicide" relative to deficiencies in her studies.

It took an unusual situation to disprove a favorite axiom among Negro Americans this week. . . .

in a letter on December 6, from "that Negroes do not commit suicide" relative to deficiencies in her studies.

73-year old Monroe Jefferson, who lived alone at 702 Savoy St., disproved the tradition when he shot himself to death with a shotgun at 11:30 Sunday night.

The letter, signed by Dr. John B. Johnson, acting head of the medical department, informed

Mrs. Weaden:

Those who knew him well stated that he committed the deed because of the ill-health he had suffered for some time. Mr. Jefferson was well-known in the section of the city in which he resided. He act of self-destruction excited comment in Negroes circles throughout the city.

The three months' additional work, Dr. Burwell disclosed, would have meant that Mrs. Weaden would have been unable to begin her internship, January 1, in the New York Infirmary for Women and Children, as the institution's first colored appointee.

Dr. Burwell said he believed his daughter was a normal personality and the sole cause of her act was despondency.

He added that despite the deficiencies in study, Mrs. Weaden had been a good student and he believed she would have reflected credit on the medical profession.

12-16-44

It is understood that Mrs. Weaden was to have assisted her father after her internship, in

Street, and the suicide of Samuel J. Brooks, 45, of 1509 Washington Street.

11-25-44

Brooks, who is reported to have been carrying on an illicit love affair with Mrs. Dunham for a number of years, allegedly shot the woman after they had quarreled and she had fled from her own house to that of a friend.

After the slaying, it is said that Brooks went to his own home, informed his wife that he was going to kill himself, and requested her to go out for witnesses. Before Mrs. Brooks could determine the reasons for her husband's statements, the house was surrounded by law enforcement officers. After an attempt to escape, Brooks allegedly shot himself with fatal effect.

30-Yr-Old Woman
AFRO-AMERICAN
Ends Life by Gas

12-23-44
Balt. Md.
Suicide Note Hints at
Unhappy Love Affair

"SO LONG, BADNESS"

Miss Wanda Douglas,
Telephone Supervisor

BALTIMORE
The note left by Miss Wanda Douglas, pretty

30-year-old telephone company supervisor who committed suicide by gas early Wednesday morning, hinted of an unhappy love affair. Police, called by

tenants of the apartment house at 714 Madison Avenue, where

Miss Douglas lived alone, found her in bed in her nightgown. She was pronounced dead on arrival at Providence Hospital.

On a bureau the officers found a note written in red pencil which read, "So long, Badness. I wish you all the happiness in the world. I did love you. See you there."

Kills Himself
Amsterdam News
After Slaying
Married Lover

New York, N.Y.
SELMA, Ala.—An alleged illicit love affair led to the slaying of Mrs. Willie Lee Dunham, 22, of 418 Water

Four Gas Jets Turned On something she knew about as early as last September. Four gas jets on the kitchen stove were turned on, police reported.

"Due to illness and time lost from her studies she was aware that she would not graduate this February. Besides, no students have been notified as yet about their ratings. Mrs. Weaden seemed in a jovial mood as late as Tuesday, and talked with instructors about certain subjects to make up. I think the cause goes much deeper than this."

Miss Douglas was at one time a Social Security Board employee. On her application at the telephone company, she gave Chicago as her home address, stating that her parents were dead. She named as her closest relative Dunbar Mays of the Dunbar Apartments in Chicago.

The body is now at the Robert Elliott Funeral Home, 1129 N. Caroline Street, pending services which are awaiting the arrival of relatives from Chicago.

Medical Student
AFRO-AMERICAN
Victim of Gas

12-23-44
WASHINGTON

Mystery shrouds the death of popular Mrs. Anne Burwell Weeden, 24-year-old Howard University medical school senior whose lifeless body clad only in her night clothes was found in her gas-filled apartment at 151 S Street, Northwest, Wednesday.

The tragic discovery was made by Mrs. Mable Barker another tenant in the apartment house when she and private hospital owner, Dr. H. H. Burwell. The community trying vainly to reach her by phone requested that Mr. Barker known was shocked when on Wednesday the news of the suicide spread.

Detected Gas
After receiving no response to her ring, Mrs. Barker detecting at Howard University, Mrs. Weeden the odor of gas escaping from un-lived in her own apartment. Her

der the door, immediately called her husband, Sgt. Albert Weeden, is

the young woman's father, Dr. Hartford R. Burwell, 2824 Sherman Avenue, director of the Bur-

rell's Private Hospital, who ad-

vised her to break down the door, and warning that she would not

With the help of Robert Pearson, graduate her class. Already, her

another tenant, she gained en-

trance to find the young woman's an internship in an out of town

lifeless body and all five jets on hospital which specialized in female

the stove open. The victim was diseases and she was quite happy

pronounced dead by Dr. Dorothy that her application had been ac-

Ferebee.

Detective Sgt. Howard C. Hoff-

man of the Homicide Division in Dr. John W. Lawlah of the school

a statement declared that Dr. Bur-

rell had expressed the belief that

his daughter had ended her life

were attributable to the fact

due to disappointment in not be-

that Mrs. Weeden was not to grad-

ing able to graduate with her class, for she had been

class this semester.

Interrogated by the AFRO, Dr.

John Lawlah, director of the How-

ard University Medical School, de-

clared:

"It would be an awful dis-

appointment if I thought Mrs. Wee-

den ended her life because of

"Due to illness and time lost from her studies she was aware that she would not graduate this February. Besides, no students have been notified as yet about their ratings. Mrs. Weeden seemed in a jovial mood as late as Tuesday, and talked with instructors about certain subjects to make up. I think the cause goes much deeper than this."

On Tuesday evening, Mrs. Weeden was also in a pleasant mood when she had dinner at the Club Bengasi, where she conversed with friends to whom she gave no hint of impending tragedy.

Mother Talks

"I am convinced that my daughter was despondent over her failure to graduate," Mrs. Burrell, mother of the victim, told the AFRO this (Thursday) morning.

"Anne was elated over the fact that she had been accepted to do her internship at the Women's and Children's Infirmary in New York, which would have made her the first student of color admitted.

D. C. Physician's
Informer - Buster,
Daughter Commits
12-30-44 Texas
Suicide; Mystery

WASHINGTON (AP). — Deep, dark mystery surrounds the suicide of Ann Burwell Weeden, daughter of the prominent Washington physician

It was stated that these complaints were made already this year, with still three more days to go.

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Woman Kills Self Boy, 11, Foiled in Suicide Try

Amsterdam News
Over Band Man

New York, N.Y.
"Suicide Note" tells of
Love for Trombonist in
Lionel Hampton's Band

Because she "could have" Freddie Beckett, a member of Lionel Hampton's Orchestra, an attractive young white woman committed suicide early Wednesday by turning on the gas in her kitchenette at 14 W. 107th St.

She was Elaine Steele, 28, who formerly worked as a waitress at 1234 Sixth Ave.

Miss Steele's body was discovered at 9:30 a.m. by her roommate, Delores Granger, who reported that four gas jets "were going full blast" when she arrived home.

Police concluded that the victim had been despondent, judging from the note left behind. Among other things, Miss Steel wrote:

"Freddie is my only love. If I can't have him, I won't have anybody." 2-5-44

At noon Wednesday, the musician had not been located. It was learned, however, that Beckett works as a trombonist in the Lionel Hampton Band.

Lonesome Wife Commits Suicide

Washington, D.C.

Believed to have been despondent over her husband's unexplained absences from home, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Gilliam, 34, killed herself by inhaling gas in the kitchen of her apartment Wednesday morning. 1-29-44

Police said that Mrs. Gilliam was known to have brooded over the failure of her husband, William Gilliam, a railroad man, to come home on the nights he was off duty, and that she had been drinking excessively for three days before the tragedy. 1-29-44

It was also reported that the victim had sent for her mother the night before, but the mother did not come to the home until after Mrs. Gilliam's death.

All the jets in the kitchen range had been turned on and a rug placed against the bottom of the door to prevent the gas from escaping.



Jack Meikle, 11-year-old New York youngster, shown putting up a struggle following his unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by leaping from a third floor window. The boy had previously slashed his mother's hand with a knife and then clambered to the outside sill of an open window, where he proclaimed his intention of jumping. After 40 minutes he was pulled inside and taken to Bellevue Hospital for observation.

H.U. Student with 4-F Draft Status Takes His Own Life

1-15-44

Police Report Law Student, 24,
Grieved Because He Couldn't Join
His 2 Brothers in the Army

Washington.

Grieved because he was unable to join his brothers in the army because of a 4-F classification, Nelson Owens, 24, Howard University student, committed suicide Friday by hanging himself in his room at 2827 Thirteenth Street, Northwest.

Police records revealed that Owens had been brooding for some time over the fact that two of his brothers were in the armed forces and that he too, wanted to serve his country in the same capacity.

Last Thursday he went to the local draft board here in an effort to have his classification status changed but the board referred him to his board in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Says He Asked for Gun

On arriving at his home here, he allegedly asked Prescott Jackson, another roomer in the house, if he knew where he could get a gun; he wanted to kill himself.

Becoming alarmed, Jackson informed Mrs. Lillian Stewart, landlady, who immediately phoned Dean William B. West of Howard University about Owens's actions.

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Paul Cornely and Dean West had an appointment with Owens relative to his condition Friday morning, they came to the home where they found the partly-clad body hanging by the neck from an iron pipe in the ceiling of the bed room. Dr. Cornely pronounced him dead from strangulations.

Made Noose of Shirt, Belt

The victim had improvised a noose out of his topshirt and belt, stood on a chair and, after adjusting the noose, apparently kicked it away and dropped the few feet to his death. 1-15-44

Mrs. Stewart told the AFRO that Owens had roomed at her house for three years, was a law school student at Howard and one of the finest men she had ever met. He did not drink nor use tobacco, she said, adding that he had been a postal clerk at the Pentagon until two weeks ago.

She declared that Owens just seemed to crack in the last week. His father, Isaac Owens of Brooklyn, claimed the body and made arrangement for burial.

HINT SUICIDE IN CO-ED'S DEATH

Bee - Chicago, Ill.

The sudden death Friday of one of the community's most popular members of the teen-age social set, and daughter of a prominent Woodlawn family, is beclouded this week by rumors that the 19-year-old girl has committed suicide. 2-13-44

The BEE's efforts to obtain details of the tragedy or to verify these reports were unsuccessful at press time Wednesday night.

The home of the deceased girl, comely and popular Mabel Langrum, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Langrum, 30, Parkway was contacted, but as both parents were out, Mr. Langrum's to have received impetus in a chance remark made by one of the nurses present when the girl's body was examined at Provident hospital.

Inquest Continued

Miss Langrum was found dead at 1 o'clock Friday morning, according to police at Woodlawn Cemetery. An inquest was held at the Providence hospital later that day. At that time the hearing was continued until Feb. 25, to permit a "chemical analysis" of the dead

girl's organs, Deputy Coroner Robert Martin stated. 2-13-44

The BEE learned from another source, however, that Martin was young girl was stricken with pneumonia. Funeral services were held Monday afternoon in the chapel of Miller and Majors mortuary at 730 East 63rd street.

Miss Whisonant, a Dunbar High School graduate and the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Chinetta Whisonant, who were out of the city at the time of her death, had gained considerable renown as a portrait painter. A portrait of Barbara Stanwyck, the movie actress, painted by her, occupies a feature spot in the art room of Phelps Vocational School, where she studied as suicide.

Miss Whisonant was found unconscious in her kitchen at 5:30 a.m. Her cousins, Miss Chinetta Whisonant, an employee of the Lucy Slove gained considerable renown trying to solve the mystery. The young artist was pronounced dead from gas asphyxiation by Dr. George Darrow of the Thirteenth Precinct. The coroner's report by Dr. George Darrow of the Thirteenth Precinct, was at the same address, notified the police of the Thirteenth Precinct, commit suicide. 2-13-44

This is the question that

relatives and the police are port

subsequently listed her death her home, and one of the kidnappers.

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ped Lindbergh baby attracted wide attention.

Talent Noted Early

Her mother told the AFRO that she had first shown artistic ability at the age of 12, and at one time had won an art scholarship.

Census officials said that she had been employed there as a punch card operator and typist since November, 1940, and had a good record.

The Rev. Robert L. Jeans, pastor of the Tabor Presbyterian Church, 150 S Street, Northwest, officiated at the funeral services Saturday. Interment was in Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. *8-26-44*

Other relatives include a cousin, Lawrence Whisonant, baritone singer, who was under study to Todd Duncan, former star of "Porgy and Bess."

CONVICT KILLS HIMSELF AS ESCAPE PLAN FAILS

7-18-44

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PHILADELPHIA, July 17.—The girl, well-developed past Steven Saunders, 27, a long-term Negro prisoner at the Eastern Penitentiary escaped from his cell passing from the rear to the early today, struck Edwin Lichtenberger, 36, a guard, on the forehead, and spending itself in a closet wall. She is in Freedmen's Hospital, in serious but not critical condition, with affected hearing.

Saunders had filed through a luging as a result of the wound on his cell door permitting him to slide the bolt open whenever he wished. He arranged a dummy on his cot, then left the cell and approached Mr. Lichtenberger, who home of Mrs. Susie M. Abbott, sitting at a desk, Saunders struck him three times on the forehead with the razor-sharp hatchet.

Other guards heard the noise and arrived to see Saunders running up a winding stairway. Saunders had filed through a luging as a result of the wound on his cell door permitting him to slide the bolt open whenever he wished. He arranged a dummy on his cot, then left the cell and approached Mr. Lichtenberger, who home of Mrs. Susie M. Abbott, sitting at a desk, Saunders struck him three times on the forehead with the razor-sharp hatchet.

They followed and found the prisoner lying in a pool of blood.

He had stabbed himself twice in the chest and died almost immediately. *7-18-44*

In a corner of Saunders' cell of the homicide squad, as follows: *8-26-44*

Mr. Bryan left his stopping place before 8 a.m., Saturday, in apparent good spirits, but with a .38 caliber pistol in his pocket.

Mr. Lichtenberger was reported in a serious condition at Graduate Hospital.

Saunders, sent to prison in April, 1936, was serving fifteen to thirty years for a hold-up.

Shot While Stooping

The father is believed to have asked his daughter to pick up some clothes laying on the floor in a closet in her room. As she stooped to carry out his order, Mr. Bryan is believed to have fired, the bullet striking her in the neck and lodging in the wall. Another went wild.

Some time later, Catherine called police and told officers appearing on the scene that she "was hurt" but didn't know how it happened. She didn't hear the sound of a pistol explosion, she

Attempted murder and suicide is the theory advanced in the fatal shooting of Charles E. Bryan, 61, ardent churchman of the 1200 block of Hamlin Street, N.E., and the serious wounding of his daughter, Catherine, 15, of 210 S Street, N.W., at the last named address on Saturday.

Brooding over his motherless said.

daughter's welfare and her apparent unresponsiveness to his anxieties and support are believed to have led Mr. Bryan, long known for his cheerfulness and civic service, to have committed the tragic act.

Still in Hospital

Pistol by His Side

Mr. Bryan apparently thought that he had killed his daughter and sat on the side of the bed to commit his last act in the tragedy. The slug pierced the brain from the top of his skull. The pistol was found by his side.

Some thought that Mr. Bryan had a permit to carry a revolver since he was held up of his collections as an insurance agent

some time ago. Sergeant Murray said a check of the records disclosed that he had no permit, but

Catherine said he had had the pistol as long as she could remember. A box of shells fitting

the revolver was found at Mr. Bryan's rooming place.

The coroner's office has as yet offered no official version in the case, pending further questioning

of Catherine. Mr. Bryan's body was sent to Americus, Ga., this week, for interment, following

funeral services at McGuire funeral parlors, Tuesday.

His daughter, Catherine, 15, was

want to do.

Last Rites Held for Churchman

Tribune - Washington, D.C.

Mysteriously Killed by Bullet

The pleasant expression of sunshine which lit the face of Charles E. Bryan, 61, of the 1200 block of Hamlin Street, N.E., during his lifetime, played upon his features as the body reposed in the McGuire Funeral Home, Tuesday, during a brief funeral service conducted by the Rev. J. C. Beckett, pastor of Metropolitan AME Church.

His daughter, Catherine, 15, was shot in the neck at the same time. Mr. Bryan was found dead in bed with a pistol beside him. The bullet wound in the head, Saturday, at 210 S Street, Northwest, bullet crashed into the skull from the top of the head. Officers are

awaiting the daughter's improvement so that they may get a "coherent" story from her about incidents leading up to the death of the respected churchman.

A small but sorrowful and tearful group of Metropolitan's officers and members began moving into McGuire's at least half an hour before the service set for 10 a.m. Notice of the funeral was not widespread.

The church's choir sang in the offing, resolutions were read from the Men's Bible Class and the Junior Stewards' Board by G. F. Stanton, of which Mr. Bryan was vice-president. A. B. Simpson, president of the board, was among the mourners, also Jefferson S. Coage, former recorder of deeds. Mrs. Julia West Hamilton also spoke touchingly of Mr. Bryan. *8-26-44*

Mr. Harrison, superintendent of the Sunday School, told of his fourteen years' association with the deceased. All lauded the faithfulness and energy of Mr. Bryant in all church activities.

"Pleasant Word for All"

"He was one of the most faithful men in the church," said Rev. Mr. Beckett. "He was one of the few officers who came to church both morning and night. . . .

"He was a friendly man and had a pleasant word for everybody. He did not care how much you criticized him, he would come back with a smile.

"We do not know his relationship with his Heavenly Father; that's none of our business, as every one has to answer for himself."

Was Widower

Mr. Bryan had been long known here as an insurance and oil salesman and at one time was connected with the Adult Education Program. *8-26-44*

He was a widower, his wife having died many years ago. He was the father of Catherine, who did not attend the funeral; brother of Mrs. Mary Morris, Mrs. Naomi Flanagan, Mrs. Ruth Lee, Homer, John S. McKinley, and Arthur Bryan.

For interment, the body was taken to Americus, Ga., where the 83-year-old mother of the deceased lives.

Army Lt. Puts Bullet in Brain to End Life

8-30-44

PHILADELPHIA — Exactly a week after the suicide of his friend, Miss Wanda Douglass, in Bethel, at their home at 718 Wellington Street. He was pronounced dead at Presbyterian Hospital. S. Bethel, 28, was found with a bullet through his brain here



N.Y. 11-18-44
DORIS O'NEIL, popular dancing beauty, is reported to have taken her life in Los Angeles a fortnight ago, where she took up residence four months ago after becoming the bride of a serviceman. The chorine was one of the original Regaleettes in Chicago and had "front lined" at New York's Cotton Club, the Windy City's Grand Terrace Cafe and other popular spots. Several years ago she married Joe Peterson and had one son, Joe Jr., who lived with her at the time of her death. The cause of the suicide was not learned at the time of this writing.

Lieutenant Bethel, who was commissioned September 4, 1943, was a week ago assigned in July to the Officer Replacement Pool at Edgewood Arsenal, Md. Military authorities report that he had been AWOL since last week end. Investigating officers reported that he apparently had been brooding over "the suicide of his fiancee." He was married to the former Miss Mary E. Williams, a widow, at Fort Breckinridge, Ky. Miss Douglass, a Baltimore telephone supervisor, committed suicide by gas in her apartment at

714 Madison Avenue Wednesday, a nearby bureau police found a note which read "So long, I wish you all the happiness in the world. I did love you. See you there."

that he apparently had been brooding over "the suicide of his fiancee." He was married to the former Miss Mary E. Williams, a widow, at Fort Breckinridge, Ky. Miss Douglass, a Baltimore telephone supervisor, committed suicide by gas in her apartment at

Wednesday morning. Believed to be a suicide victim, Lieutenant Bethel's body was discovered by his sister, Miss Sara Williams, at their home at 718 Wellington Street. He was pronounced dead at Presbyterian Hospital.

Exactly a week after the suicide of his friend, Miss Wanda Douglass, in Bethel, at their home at 718 Wellington Street. He was pronounced dead at Presbyterian Hospital. S. Bethel, 28, was found with a bullet through his brain here

ROANOKE, Va. — The Rev. James R. Johnson Jr., pastor of Ebenezer AME Church and president of the local NAACP branch, walked out of the interracial mass meeting in the Green Memorial Methodist *Journal & Guide*

ribution toward the progress of race relations in Roanoke and bus in our world." *2-24-45*

The Rev. E. E. Chappell, prominent minister of Suffolk, Va., who was guest of Rev. Mr. Johnson, also left the meeting. Mr. Chappell could not be contacted for his reaction. Music for the program was furnished by the Addison High School chorus and the Rev. W. M. Scott, vice chairman of the local Interracial Commission, acted as master of ceremonies. Dr. Philip M. Widenhouse, director of Research and Church Planning of the Washington, D. C., Federation of Churches, was guest weaker.



2-24-45
REV. JAMES R. JOHNSON

Church, white, here on Sunday afternoon. This meeting was in observance of Race Relations Day. *2-24-45*

Rev. Mr. Johnson said he walked out because of the segregated seating arrangement. "I refuse to be a part of a meeting, especially when held in the house of God for the betterment of race relations, and at the same time and place practice segregation."

PLANNED NO SEGREGATION

In speaking of the incident the Rev. Edward Dowdy, white, said in a written statement, "The committee's only real disappointment in the meeting was the unfortunate and unplanned for segregated seating of the audience. The committee had planned definitely that this year's meeting follow the successful experience of last year's non-segregating seating plan, but apparently through a lack of clear instructions to the ushers, who has come in from various churches, the pattern of segregation set by early comers was followed as others came in."

The committee is regretting his failure of their plan for a non-segregation meeting, hopes to profit by this year's experience and looks forward to an even greater meeting next year."

"In the meantime the committee is already beginning to plan to have a Negro speaker next year of national reputation who will make a further con-